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Dated: Feb. 3, 2004 Signature: Diane Blevins  
(Diane Blevins)

Docket No.: 524012000200  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Mingdong ZHOU

Application No.: 09/980,672

Filed: Int'l Filing Date: 12/21/1999

Art Unit: 1654

For: CARDIAC MUSCLE FUNCTION AND  
MANIPULATION

Examiner: M. Audet

**AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed October 3, 2003 in connection with the above-identified application. A response to this action is due on or before January 3, 2004.

Submitted herewith is a petition and fee for a one-month extension of time, thereby extending the time to file a response until February 3, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. The considered claims, claims 1-29 were pending. Claims 1, 3-15, 18-24, 28 and 29 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2, 6-17 and 25-27 are rejected.

Applicant has given careful consideration to the grounds for rejection and objection. The following amendments and remarks are believed to place this application in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. Enclosed are the following exhibits:

Exhibit A: Holmes et al., *Science*, 256:1205-1210 (1992); and

Exhibit B: Chang et al., *Nature*, 387:509-512 (1997).